

said first branch node via a second network link; said first package already being present on said second target node;

b1
said first branch node being arranged to transmit said software package over said first network link, and said second package over only said second network link;

whereby both the first and second packages are distributed to both said first and second target nodes.

sub d 27
b2
8. (Amended) Apparatus for hierarchal software allowing distribution of a software package comprising at least a first and second package to a plurality of target nodes, wherein the contents of said first and second package are determined by a distribution server before the contents are distributed, said apparatus comprising:

a distribution node for transmitting packages of software;

at least one branch node in communication with said distribution node; and

first and second target nodes, said first target node being in communication with said branch node via a first network link, and said second target node being in communication with said branch node via a second network link; said first package already being present on said second target node;

each branch node being arranged to receive each of said first and second packages from said distribution node independently;

said branch node being arranged to transmit said first package via said first and second network links to said first and second target nodes, and said second package via said second network link to said second target node; and

said target nodes being arranged to install each package once the package is received;

whereby the complete software package is installed on each of said first and second target nodes.